

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-8, 10-14 and 16-20 are amended. Support for the changes to the claims is found in the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims and the drawings at least in Figs. 5 and 14. No new matter is added.

In the Official Action, Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 12, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 5,801,774 (Seo); Claims 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Seo and in view of U.S. 5,982,429 (Kamamoto); and Claims 3, 5-7, 9, 13-16 and 18 were objected to, but were otherwise indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3, 5-7, 9, 13-16 and 18. However, it is respectfully submitted the other pending claims also contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in light of the following comments.

In particular, Claim 1 defines an image pickup apparatus which includes, *inter alia*, an image pickup apparatus body which has a handle which is extended in a direction approximately parallel with a light axis direction of a lens system. The handle is provided on an upper portion of the image pickup apparatus body. Further, a first display device is provided on a front portion (in a light axis direction) of the handle. It is respectfully submitted the cited references fail to disclose or reasonably suggest these features.

In particular, the Office Action alleges Seo describes a handle (18) which is extended in an approximately parallel direction relative to a light axis of a lens system and on an upper portion of a housing.¹ Applicant respectfully disagrees.

¹ Office Action item 2, page 2.

Seo describes handle (18) as provided on a *side portion* (rather than an upper portion) of a camcorder.² Further, Seo does not describe a display device as positioned on a front portion of the handle (18), as required by Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted Seo fails to anticipate Claim 1.

Moreover, Kamamoto fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Seo. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted Claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Additionally, since the above-noted features of Claim 1 were originally presented, it is respectfully submitted a next Office Action rejecting Claim 1 on a new ground of rejection should not be made final.

Although varying in scope, it is respectfully submitted Claim 17 is also allowable over the art of record for substantially similar reasons as noted above regarding Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 should be withdrawn.


Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues. Otherwise, a timely notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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² Seo, Figure 5.